

January 11, 1995

Mr. Mark Kanak, General Manager
WTAR
168 Business Park Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

"BIG" Corporate Radio
Too Interested in Making BIG Business Dollars
At the Cost of Making Little Community-Minded Sense

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Dear Mr. Kanak:

This letter concerns your recent decision to cancel the MIKE RAU SHOW. Phoning your station was as futile as talking to the proverbial brick wall, as I was coldly and abruptly informed that this was "strictly a business decision." And no one there was the least bit interested in hearing what I might have had to say about the matter, even though I've been a long-time listener, and as a result of that very fact, a well-informed local citizen. Since mine is not the voice of an important investor or a big-time source of advertising dollars, nothing I had to say (even if it was the wisdom of Solomon) was worth your time of day. How tragic to think the only value you place on people is a monetary one.

Originally, talk radio started out as a brilliant concept: more consumer-oriented, interesting and informative, providing a stimulating format for in-depth discussion of news issues relevant to your local listening audience. And so it saddens me to see that which was so vital, degenerate into this current plague of tabloid mentality, devoid of any constructive sense of values.

It was so good to be able to tune in your station and find a well-balanced, interesting and accurately-informed individual at the microphone... to offset the loud lunatic ravings of the all-pervasive Rush Limbaugh. But alas, Mike is gone and Rush remains, not because Rush enlightens but because Rush sells; and the almighty dollar reigns supreme. In a business-oriented media where "RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM" has become a contradiction-of-terms... no, I guess there wouldn't be any room for a Mike Rau; the man still has a soul.

Tonight, 790 on my dial amounts to DEAD AIR time: bereft of any meaningful truth. And that's what has brought me here to my desk to write you this letter.

I am enclosing a copy of "Rush Limbaugh's Reign of Error" from the July/August issue of FAIR Magazine. Yes, I'm aware that Rush is on ONIS, but I just want to point out to you the calibre of information (or rather, MISinformation) flow that we the public are left with, now that you have chosen to remove the one commentator who had the presence of mind to set the record straight. Enclosed as well is the letter I wrote to Mike Rau.

Mr. Mark Kanak

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I don't know you and I've never met Mike Rau. yet this concerned housewife in Chesapeake took all this time and effort to write. Whether or not you care, sir, I do. My sincere effort will have to be its own reward. It made me no DOLLAR\$, but it made lots of sense.

A Once Avid Listener
(Turned Off & Tuned Out)

A.

Anita Jahr
800 Hollywood Drive
Chesapeake VA 23320

ME/myself

Enclosures: (1) Magazine Article
(2) My Letter to Mike Rau

c.c.: Mr. Mike Rau ✓
F.C.C.